

1898-99. The Antique Surcharges.2 Attos on 64 Attos.

The two Settings of the two Attos Surcharge are much more difficult to separate than are the settings of any other value. This is due principally to the fact that in this case both settings have been prepared from the same General-Setting and therefore contain the same varieties and errors in similar positions in the sheet. In order, however, to shew clearly that the two settings actually exist, a pair from the same place in each setting is appended below. For a large proportion of the stamps in Setting A the letter "S" is antique while it is almost invariably Roman in Setting B. This, however, is not an absolute criterion, as both settings contain examples of the other sort of type.

Setting A
with "S" usually
antique and the
Siamese numeral
at a distance from
the fourth character.

F.



Siamese Surcharge
measures $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

For this reason it is necessary to rely on the Siamese inscription as our guide to the settings. A comparison of the two pairs adjoining will shew that the two inscriptions are exactly alike in the form & minute flaws in the various characters (save of course the numeral) so that they are

Setting B
with the "S" usually
Roman and the
Siamese numeral
close to the fourth
character.

F.



Siamese Surcharge
measures $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

certainly derived from the same place in the sheet. As regards the figure however, one very noticeable difference exists. In Setting A there is a considerable space between the figure and the characters on each side of it; in Setting B the figure is close up to the fourth character. This results in a millimetric difference in the length of the inscriptions. As far as reconstruction of the two settings has at present been carried, this difference is quite constant & enough has been done to render it probable that it is entirely so.

In addition it must be remembered that Setting A belongs to phase II, and Setting B to phase III of the General-Setting.